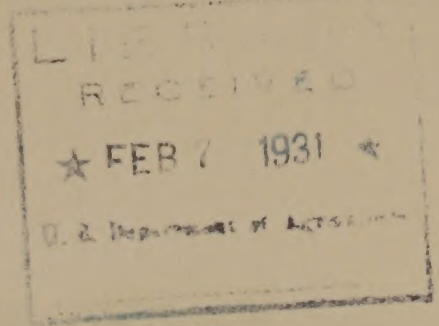


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JANUARY MEETING OF THE PROGRESSIVE GARDEN CLUB

A radio interview between Dr. Mulford, Bureau of Plant Industry, and members of the Progressive Garden Club, delivered through WRC and 39 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, January 20, 1931.

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ANNOUNCER:- That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes the news flashes and the weather report for today. The Progressive Garden Club is holding its regular monthly meeting here today, and the meeting is about to begin. Last Tuesday, W. R. Beattie, leader of the Progressive Garden Club, in his garden calendar talk, suggested that you prepare a sketch of your home and the grounds surrounding it, and be ready to fill in the planting plan and necessary changes as outlined in the meeting today. So now, if you will get your sketch and pencil ready, we will transfer to the room in which the meeting is to be held. (Click to indicate transfer).

MISS GLASPEY:- You see, our house stands on a small hill, and is about 200 feet from the main highway, so we have a large space in front of the house.

J. H. BEATTIE:- Our place is quite level and the house is located about 150 feet from the road, but there is nearly one-half acre in our lawn.

MISS PERRY: We planted a number of shade trees and shrubs around our house last spring, but I think the drought has killed most of them.

CHAIRMAN: (Raps for order as last voice dies away, but with background conversation continuing until chairman begins speaking.)

CHAIRMAN: The Progressive Garden Club will please come to order. I am glad to see so many present today and trust you have brought sketches of your home grounds. Well folks, this is "Home Planning Day," and we are going to discuss plans for the improvement of our home surroundings. First, let me state that we are not going to have any speeches on our program today, but we will sit around this big table and talk things over. Mr. Furman Lloyd Mulford, landscape specialist of the Department of Agriculture, is here to answer questions, and to advise us regarding the best treatment of our places. Suppose you take this place at the side of the table Mr. Mulford, and the rest of you just draw your chairs around the table so that you can spread your plans out before you. (Drawing up of chairs and room noises 5 seconds) (Noise of unrolling and spreading out of papers followed by silence.)

CHAIRMAN continues: In our plan for the improvement of home surroundings, the first thing to consider is the location of buildings and the roads and walks leading to them. Where a new place is being started the locations can be all worked out in advance, first, from the standpoint of convenience, and, second, with regard to the landscape effect or the appearance of the place.

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MISS PERRY: I'd like to have Mr. Mulford look at my plan. Our road leads straight to our front door. I think it should approach the house from one side and leave the lawn free and open. I want to know how to change it and where to locate the walks.

MR. MULFORD: Quite right. Both the roadway and the walk should approach the house from the side. Roads and walks are for convenience, but that does not prevent them being arranged on slightly curved lines, starting at one side of the lawn at the highway entrance then curving gently toward the house and finally passing the house in a more or less straight line and on to the garage at the rear.

MR. MILSTEAD: Where should the garage be located?

MR. MULFORD: The garage should be toward the rear where it can be at least partly hidden from the highway and the entrance drive by trees and shrubbery plantings. A turn-around at the side or toward the rear of the house is desirable, but it should be possible to screen the clothes drying yard and the outbuildings from this turn-around.

MR. J. H. BEATTIE: Are there any cases where the driveway should be straight from the main highway to the house?

MR. MULFORD: Where the distance from the highway to the house is not more than 50 or 60 feet, the driveway may be straight, but always to one side so as to leave a broad and unobstructed expanse of lawn.

MR. J. H. BEATTIE: My problem is that friends coming to my house leave their machines in the driveway, thus preventing others from getting out or coming in. What can I do to remedy this situation Mr. Mulford?

MR. MULFORD: There are two ways in which such a condition can be helped. One way is to have an extra wide drive just where the walk leaves the drive for the house so that the visitor naturally draws to the side of the road next to the house and leaves room to pass. The other way is to have a turn-around opposite the entrance walk so that a second machine entering from the highway can turn to the side away from the house and pass to the rear. In one case you would have a widened place in the roadway and in the other you have a turn-around with a roadway leading from it toward the garage or the rear of the place.

MISS PERRY: How about the walk in front of the house, Mr. Mulford, should it follow the driveway or be direct through the center of the lawn?

MR. MULFORD: If a walk is needed from the highway to the house, it should by all means follow the drive. In many cases the roadway leading to the house can be made to serve as a walk, at least for a part of the distance then have a short walk taking off from the drive and leading with a slight curve to the front door. This would mean that the walk and the driveway would form a sort of "Y"

about 20 or 30 feet in front of the front line of the house. The roadway should be at least 8 or 10 feet from the side of the house so as to allow for lawn and shrubbery plantings next the house.

MISS GLASPEY: How about stepping stones instead of a walk, Mr. Mulford - aren't they more artistic?

MR. MULFORD: Stepping stones are all right where they are to be used mostly in daylight and in good weather, but in the dark the spaces between the stones are dangerous for small heels and the grass is often unpleasant when covered with rain or dew. Under most conditions you want a good servicable walk of concrete, closely laid stones, brick, or finely crushed rock or screened gravel for the main approach. There is much in favor of a smooth concrete walk, especially where there are young children who like roller skating or riding their tricycles on the smooth surface. Where the walk is of cement, plenty of lamp-black or other coloring material should be added to the finishing coat to darken it and kill the white glare of the cement. The walk does not need to be wide, 28 to 30 inches usually being sufficient.

CHAIRMAN: So much for the location and character of walks and drives. Our next important consideration is to have a good lawn in front and at the sides of the house. The lawn is the foundation on which we carry out our whole planting scheme and it should be well graded, not necessarily level but smooth and free from bumps and depressions. The soil should be well drained and fairly rich. Grasses that are suited to your locality should always be used. A lawn that has the appearance of being moth-eaten is a poor basis upon which to work out any plan of home beautification. You want plenty of lawn so draw on your sketches a few lines indicating the outline or extent of the ground that is available for lawn. We are working on our plan today, but we will consider the making and care of lawns at a later meeting of the club. Our next point in the plan is the location of shade trees.

MR. MILSTEAD: We have two large oak trees back of the house, but no shade in front. I'd like to have Mr. Mulford tell me how many trees I should plant on our large lawn, and where they should be located.

MR. MULFORD: You shouldn't have too many trees, even though your place is large. They should be located well to the sides so as to form a sort of frame or setting for the house. Let me see your sketch --- Your house faces south so you should set one or two trees at the west of the house, and perhaps 30 feet from it to furnish afternoon and evening shade. Then, you might have one or two trees to the east and southeast of the house. Any trees planted in front of the front line of the house should be far enough to the sides so that they will only cut off the view of the corners, leaving the center exposed to view. One or two trees should, as a rule, be planted near the main highway, but well to the sides of the lawn so as to avoid cutting off the view of the house. That would make about 7 shade trees on your place, in addition to the 2 oaks you now have growing at the back of the house.

Mr. J. H. BEATTIE: You mentioned oak trees Mr. Mulford. Do you, as a rule, recommend oak trees for farm home planting?

MR. MULFORD: I do east of the Mississippi River and some distance west of it. There are the live oak, laurel oak, and the willow oak for the South; the red oak and the pin oak for the central sections and the North; the mossy cup oak may be grown even to eastern South Dakota and eastern Texas.

MISS GLASPEY: How about maples and elms, can they be planted along with the oaks to give variety?

MR. MULFORD: Yes, indeed. The Norway maple is widely useful and is at its best when allowed to grow with its lower limbs resting on the ground in the same way as beeches and many evergreens are grown. The soft maples are not so good but grow quickly. The American elm is desirable for planting almost everywhere and the Chinese elm in the west.

Plant shade trees of the kinds that grow naturally in your locality but give every tree a fair chance. On your plans that you have before you, mark the location of the trees so that they will not crowd each other nor the house. Keep the trees a reasonable distance from the house so that they will not obscure the view.

MISS PERRY: How about flowers and shrubbery around the house, Mr. Mulford, how should they be arranged for best effect?

MR. MULFORD: That brings us to our next important point in our plan. The lawn is the canvas on which we draw our picture, and the flowers and shrubbery soften and color it. Flowers and shrubbery should be located around the house foundation and along the borders of the lawn, but seldom, if ever, in the main portion of the lawn. Let us first consider the plantings around the house foundations. Refer to your plans and draw a small circle to represent the location of a tall growing evergreen or shrub at each corner of the house, or better, two at one corner and one at the other. These should be placed just inside of the corner. Now indicate another at either side of the steps leading into the house. Next draw 3 or 4 little circles, irregularly placed, around each of the taller shrubs to indicate dwarf shrubs forming a group around the taller shrubs. The tall evergreens may be cedars or arbor vitae while the smaller plants may be dwarf evergreens or shrubs that shed their leaves such as Japanese barberry, highbush cranberry, and Van Houtte spirae.

MR. MILSTEAD: Is that all the planting you will need around the house foundation?

MR. MULFORD: No, especially if your house is wide, you will need one or two small groups of low growing shrubs between the other groups, but the plantings should not hide more than two-thirds of the length of the foundation. Then you will need one or two shrubbery groups, mostly low growing, at the end of the house and around any outside chimneys or sharp angles or offsets in the house itself.

MR. J. H. BEATTIE: How about shrubbery in borders alongside the lawn, Mr. Mulford? Would you advise planting borders:

MR. MULFORD: Yes indeed, especially if you have a fence that you wish to hide or where you want a distinctive line or border to separate the lawn from the adjoining land. If you have a fence at the side of the lawn it may be hidden by groups of shrubbery interplanted with perennials such as delphiniums, Canterbury bells, foxglove, old fashioned hollyhocks, and many others. In case you have a walk branching off from the drive you might plant a small group of low growing shrubs in the angle between the roadway and the walk, but under no circumstances should trees, shrubs or flowering plants be scattered over the lawn.

MISS GLASPEY: Mr. Mulford, should the borders along the sides of the lawn be arranged in straight lines:

MR. MULFORD: Not as a rule. If you will refer to your plans that you have before you and indicate a shrubbery and flower border beginning with a width of 8 or 10 feet near the main highway then narrowing to $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet, draw a fairly straight line paralleling the edge of the lawn or the fence for about one-third the distance to the house. From that point make the border more or less irregular, widening it to 6 or even 10 feet in places. Indicate a group of about 5 shrubs to be planted in each of the wider spaces and then fill in the narrower parts with shrubs and perennials. Near the house let the border curve inward toward the house a distance of 8 or 10 feet and terminate in a rounded end but leaving plenty of space between the end of the border and the plantings around the house foundations. Another method is to continue the border past the house and across the rear of the side yard. This makes a very handsome arrangement, especially where the side yard is kept in a good lawn.

Mr. MILSTEAD: How about planting shrubbery underneath the trees, Mr. Mulford:

MR. MULFORD: It is useless to plant most shrubbery underneath shade trees, but some kinds will make good foliage, but will not flower. The spaces under the trees are usually best kept free of all plantings except grasses. Keep openings clear so that when your visitors come up the walk or the drive they can get glimpses past the house to the orchard and vegetable garden. In case there are unsightly buildings to the rear they may be screened by planting shrubs, vines, evergreens, or low growing shade trees.

MISS PERRY: I know a place that was planted many years ago and the shrubbery has been allowed to grow until it almost hides the house. What would you do in a case like that?

MR. MULFORD: I would remove many of the shrubs, leaving those at the most important places and prune the others heavily, if necessary, then plant small shrubs to hide the lower parts of those that can not be made presentable by pruning. Home owners are often so eager to get an immediate effect they they over-plant, and as a result their places become overgrown in a few years.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mulford, suppose in the short time that we have remaining, you tell us something about the kinds of plants to use in the various sections. First, the most northern sections of the United States.:

MR. MULFORD: Plants especially adapted to the most northern sections are the cone-bearing evergreens, including the pines, spruces, and firs in the larger growing kinds, and the many junipers and American arbor vitae, including many small and very dwarf kinds.

MR. MILSTEAD: But we live south of that section, Mr. Mulford.

MR. MULFORD: In the section which lies south of a line extending from Boston to Chicago and southward to the northern line of Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana, there may be grown most of the deciduous trees and shrubs such as Japanese barberry, the spireas, viburnums, such as snowball and high bush cranberry, rose species, privets, lilacs, deciduous magnolias, fringe trees, silver bell, dogwoods, redbud, rhododendrons, and mountain laurel, also the cone-bearing evergreens in the northern part of this region, and the broad-leaved evergreens in the southern part.

MR. J. H. BEATTIE: How about the extreme south or Gulf Coast section?

MR. MULFORD: In the extreme south the broad-leaf evergreens are most at home. These include live oak and magnolia trees, hollies of several kinds, including yaupon, evergreen azaleas, camelias, Carolina cherry, cherry laurel, photinia, gold dust tree and crepe myrtle which usually sheds its leaves, as well as other deciduous plants grown further north.

MISS GLASPEY: But, Mr. Mulford, my home is in the western section, not far from the Rocky Mountains, what would you recommend me to plant?

MR. MULFORD: In the region west from eastern Nebraska and eastern Texas, the lilacs and spireas are especially dependable. The various tamarisks, even though they may kill to the ground, Thunberg barberry, rosa rugosa, rosa hugonis, sumacs, and coral berry or buckberry. The western form of the red cedar, the Austrian pine and the Black Hills spruce are the only promising evergreens for that western section.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Mulford. Now, ladies and gentlemen, in our home planning today, we have considered the proper location of walks and drives in relation to the house and the lawn and with a view to keeping the lawn free and open, we have indicated the proper location of shade trees mainly to the sides and at the rear of the house, and we have outlined the proper arrangement of shrubbery borders and plantings around the house foundations. We have not considered the matter of pergolias, arbors and summer houses, which, as a rule, should be located in the side yard, or well to the background. Then there is the matter of lawn furniture such as rustic chairs and benches, lawn swings, bird baths, etc. Lawn swings and rustic seats should always be placed in the shady or secluded places. Many of you may aspire to have a rose garden as a part

of your home improvement scheme. There are many things to consider in making a plan for your home improvement, and no two homes require exactly the same treatment. The principles are the same in practically all cases, however, and one should always avoid extremes.

MISS PERRY: Where can we get help on our home improvement problems?

CHAIRMAN: Your State Extension Division, your County Agricultural Agent, or your Home Demonstration Agent can doubtless help you with your plan. Each County Agent has been provided with a working handbook which contains lists of plants suitable for planting in the various sections of the country. By referring to this handbook your county agent can give you a list. I am sure that Mr. Mulford will be glad to make suggestions if you will write him in care of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., or in care of the station to which you are now listening. All those who desire may become members of the Progressive Garden Club by sending your names and addresses to us. We will then send you certain bulletins pertaining to the improvement of home surroundings. Be sure and write your name and address plainly.

ANNOUNCER: That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes the program of the Progressive Garden Club for today. Mail your applications for membership and for literature on home improvement to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. or in care of the Station to which you are listening.

Those taking part in our program today were Mr. W. R. Beattie, Miss Rose Glaspey, Miss Grace V. Perry, Mr. Furnan Lloyd Mulford, Mr. J. H. Beattie and Mr. Harry Milstead.

For the complete list of the names of those who have taken part in the program, see the list of names on the back of the program.
